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Reichert-led anti-radicalization bill set to pass House

Washington, D.C. (October 23, 2007)—After being debated on the House floor today, H.R. 1955, “The Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007,” passed the U.S. House of Representatives by a vote of 404 to 6. This bipartisan bill, written by U.S. Reps. Dave Reichert (R-WA) and Jane Harman (D-CA), is based on a legislative effort Reichert spearheaded earlier this year.

“The passage of this bill is a legislative victory in the fight against homegrown terrorism—and without Dave Reichert, it simply would not have been possible,” said U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security. “Given his extensive law enforcement experience, Dave has a unique understanding of the serious threats that we face, both at home and abroad.”

H.R. 1955 establishes a commission to study and report on the prevention of radicalization in the United States, much like the 9/11 commission examined events leading up to the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The bill will also aide law enforcement by helping them properly identify, investigate and prosecute extremists operating in the United States.

Additionally, H.R. 1955 will create a university-based Center of Excellence for the Study of Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism in the United States, bringing the academic community into the discussion on how to prevent radicalization here at home. And the bill also encourages our government to partner with our allies to study cases of homegrown terror abroad so we can learn from those experiences and better prevent attacks like them here at home.

“Congressman Reichert has worked tirelessly on this bill and I applaud him for his efforts,” King said.

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